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PLANNING PROCESS

OPS 010



PURPOSE OF PLANNING

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“Planning is the art of envisioning a desired end state and determining effective ways of achieving that goal.”

MCWP 5-1

Whether done at strategic, operational, or tactical level the key functions of planning are to:

- Direct and coordinate actions
- Develop a shared situational awareness
- Generate common expectations about how actions will evolve and how they will effect the desired outcome
- Support the exercise of initiative
- Shape the thinking of the planners



TENETS OF MCPP

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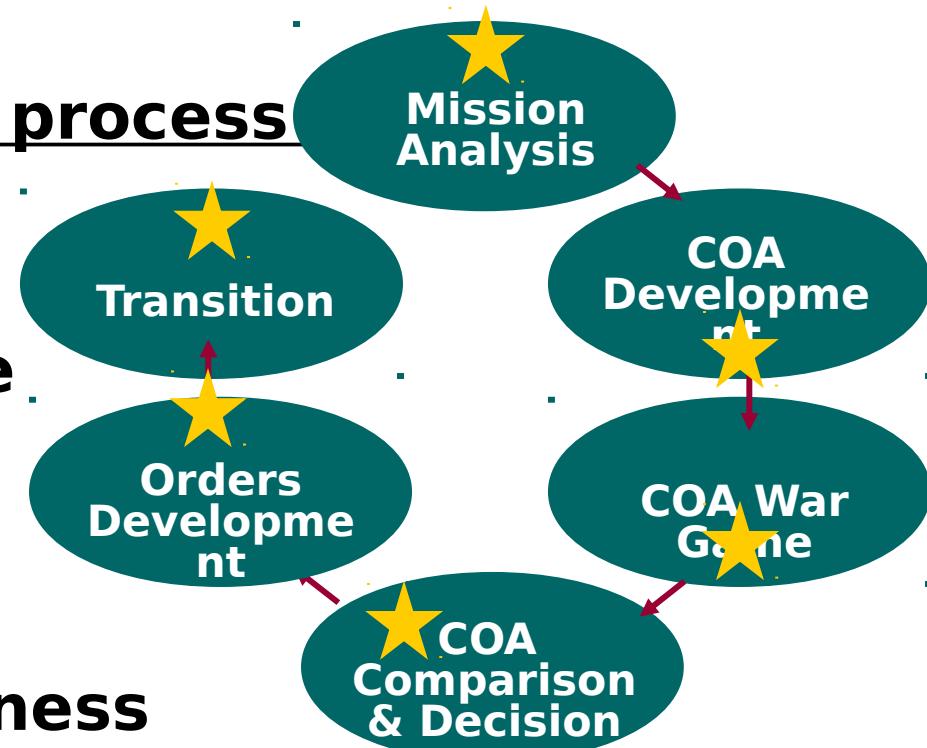
- **Top-Down Planning**
- **Single Battle Concept**
- **Integrated Planning**



TOP-DOWN PLANNING

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- Planning is a fundamental responsibility of command
- Commander drives the process
- Keys:
 - Intent
 - Planning guidance
- Commander gains:
 - Knowledge
 - Situational awareness
 - Support for his decision making

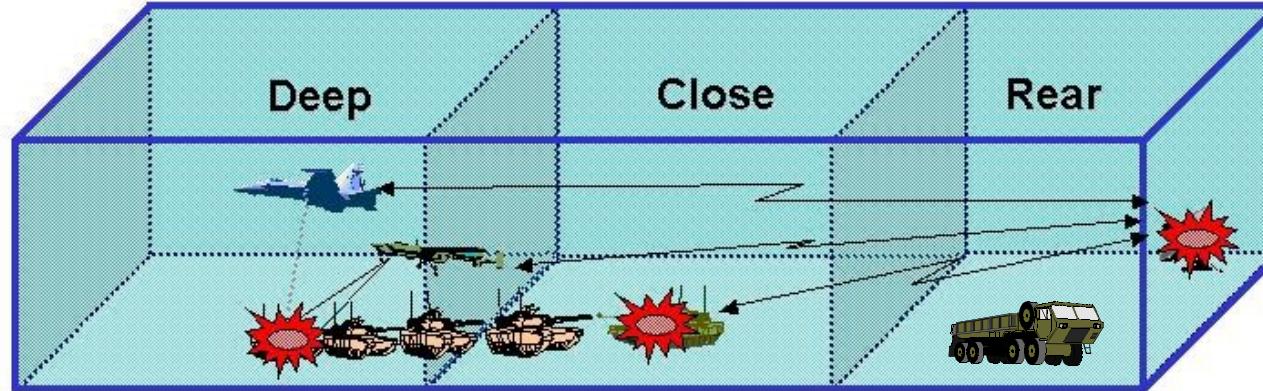




THE SINGLE BATTLE

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Single Battle



**Action *anywhere* is related
To action *everywhere***

The Single Battle is the Power of the MAGTF:

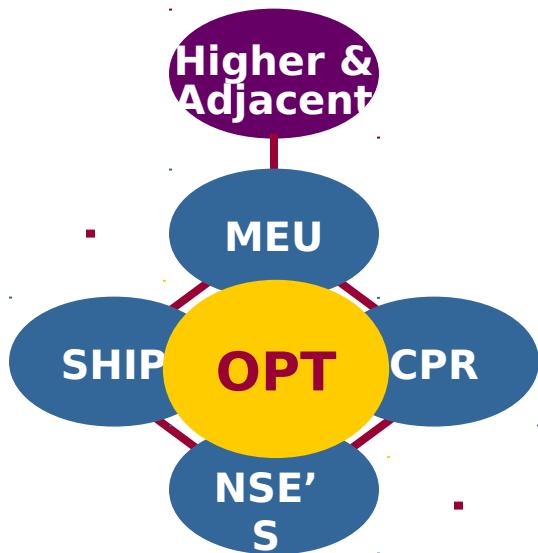
- Promotes Unity of Effort
- Centralized planning controls and coordinates efforts of all available forces
- Decentralized execution generates tempo



INTEGRATED PLANNING

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INTEGRATED STAFFS



INTEGRATED WARFIGHTING FUNCTIONS

- Command and Control
- Intelligence
- Fires
- Maneuver
- Logistics
- Force Protection

- Disciplined Approach to Planning
- Helps to -
 - Reduce Omissions
 - Share Information



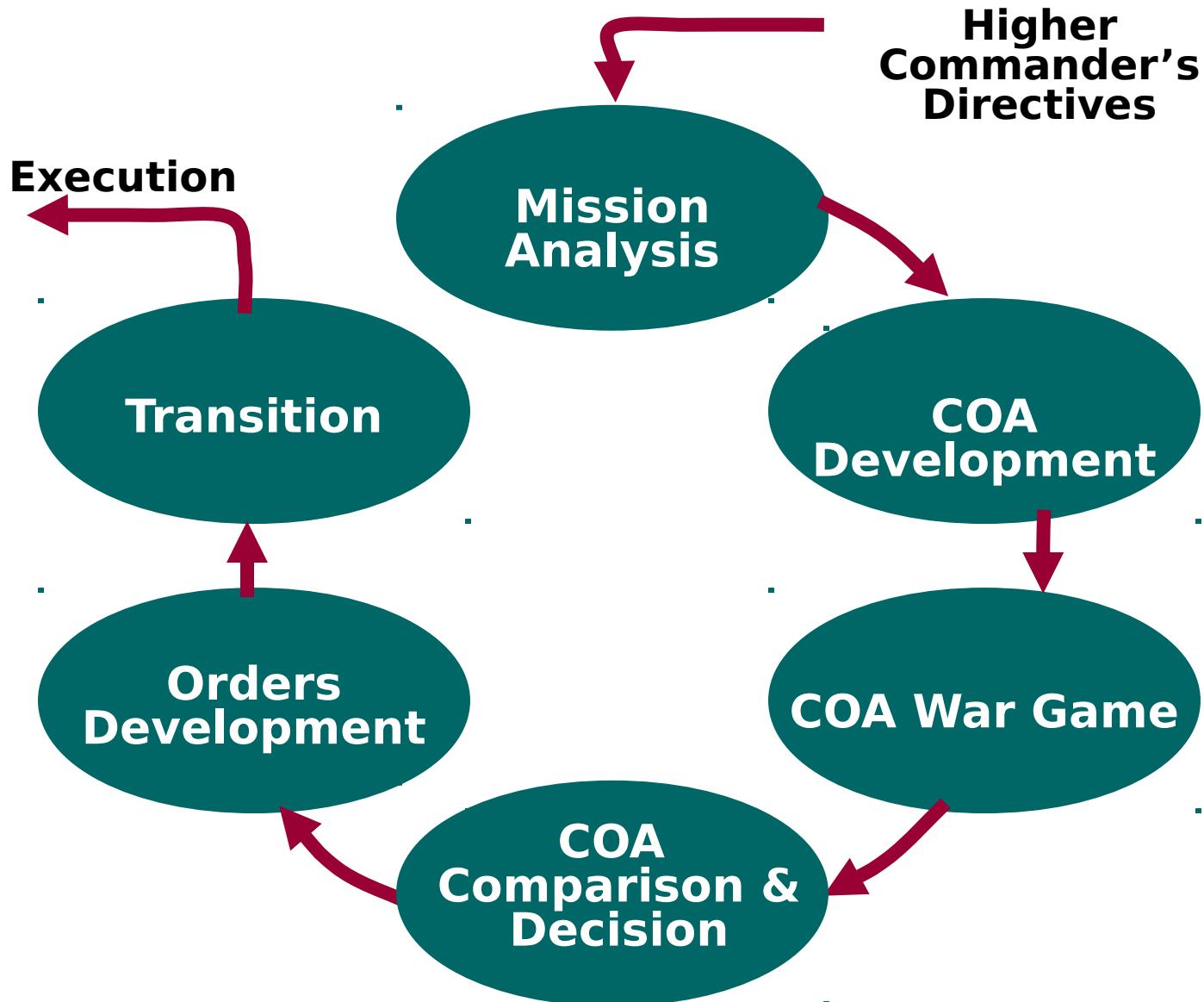
Commander



Staff



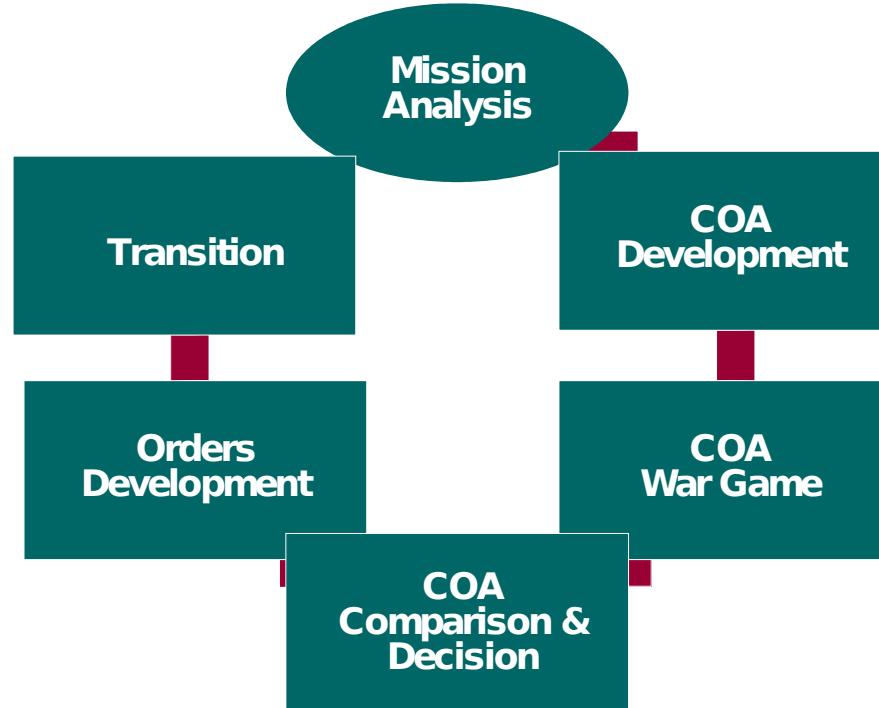
MARINE CORPS PLANNING PROCESS





MISSION ANALYSIS

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Purpose: "...to review and analyze orders, guidance and other information that is provided by higher headquarters in order to produce a unit mission statement."



MISSION ANALYSIS

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Input:

- HHQ
 - Order
 - Intel products
- Commander's Orientation
 - CBAE
 - Battlespace
 - Intent
 - COG
 - CCIR
 - Initial Guidance

IPB

Process:

- Information requirements
- Assumptions
- Constraints / restraints
- Identify tasks
- Draft mission statement

Staff
Estimates

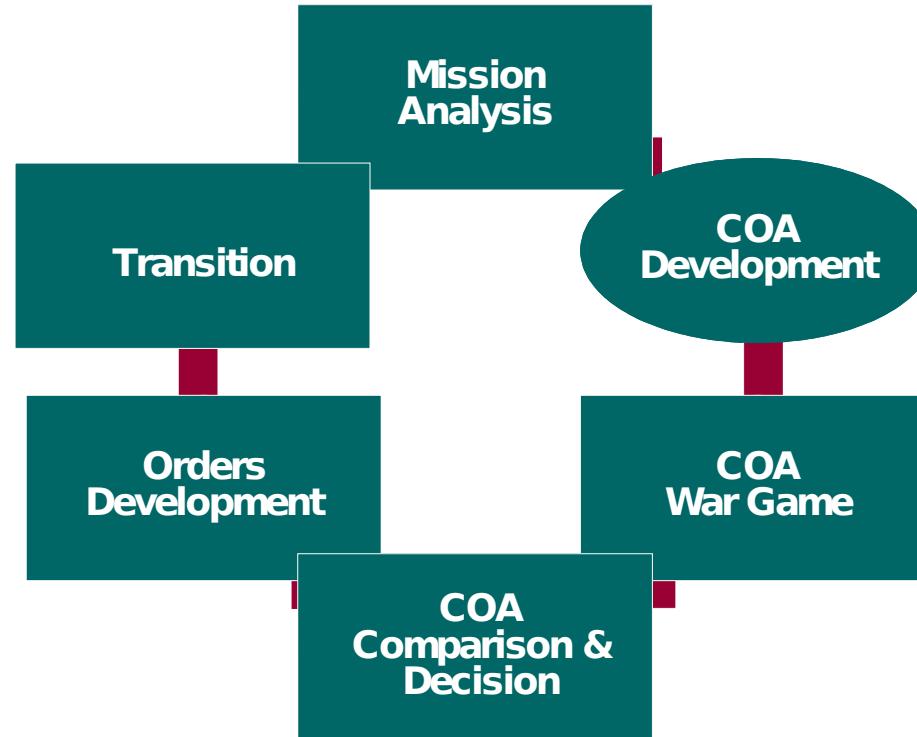
Output:

- Mission statement
- Refined intent
- Planning guidance
- Warning Order



COA DEVELOPMENT

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Purpose: “...to generate options for follow-on wargaming and comparison that satisfy the mission, commander’s intent and guidance of the commander.”



COA DEVELOPMENT

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G

Input:

- Mission Statement
- Refined intent
- Planning guidance

IPB

Process:

- Develop initial COAs
- Commander's input
- COA refinement
 - Graphic & Narrative
- COA criteria
 - Suitable
 - Distinguishable
 - Feasible
 - Acceptable
 - Complete

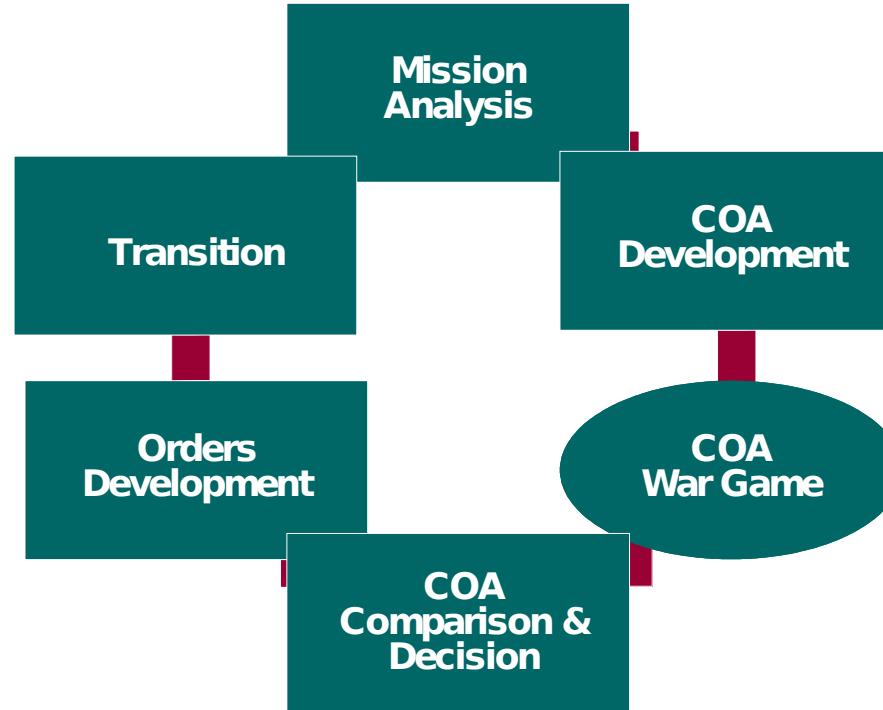
Output:

- Designated COAs for war game
- War game guidance
- Evaluation criteria



COA WAR GAME

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Purpose: "...assists planners in identifying strengths and weaknesses, associated risks, and asset shortfalls for each friendly course of action."



COA WAR GAME

EWT
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Process:

- Conduct COA War Game
- Refine estimates
- Refine IPB products
 - DST
 - HVT/HPT

Input:

- Designated COAs for war game
- War game guidance
- Evaluation criteria

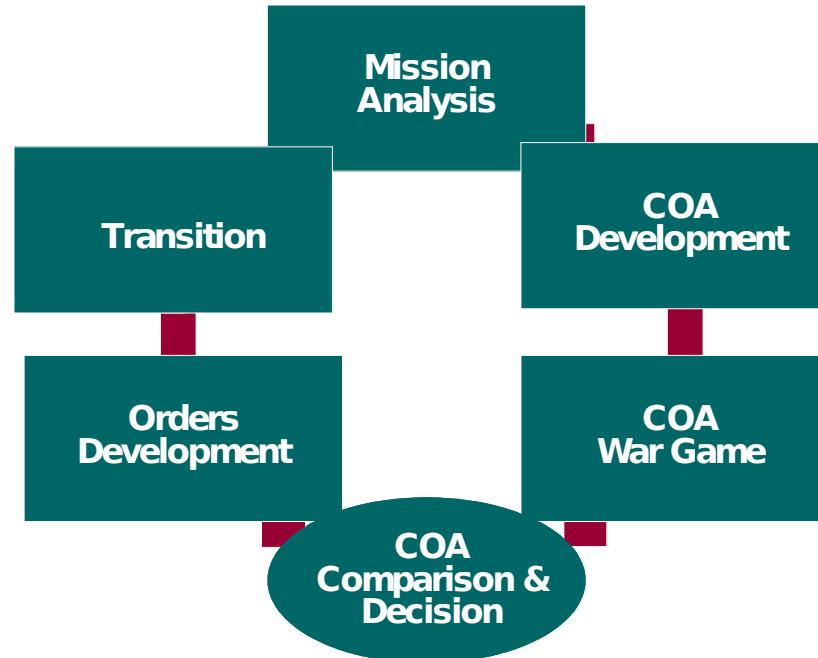
IPB

Output:

- Wargamed COAs graphic & narrative
- Information on commander's evaluation criteria



COA COMPARISON & DECISION_{EWT} G



Purpose: "...the commander evaluates all friendly courses of action against established criteria, evaluates them against each other, and selects the course of action that he believes will best accomplish the mission."



COA COMPARISON & DECISION_{EWTG}

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Process:

- Perform COA evaluation
- Perform COA comparison
- Commander's decision
- Prepare CONOPS

Input:

- Wargamed COAs graphic & narrative
- Information on commander's evaluation criteria

IPB

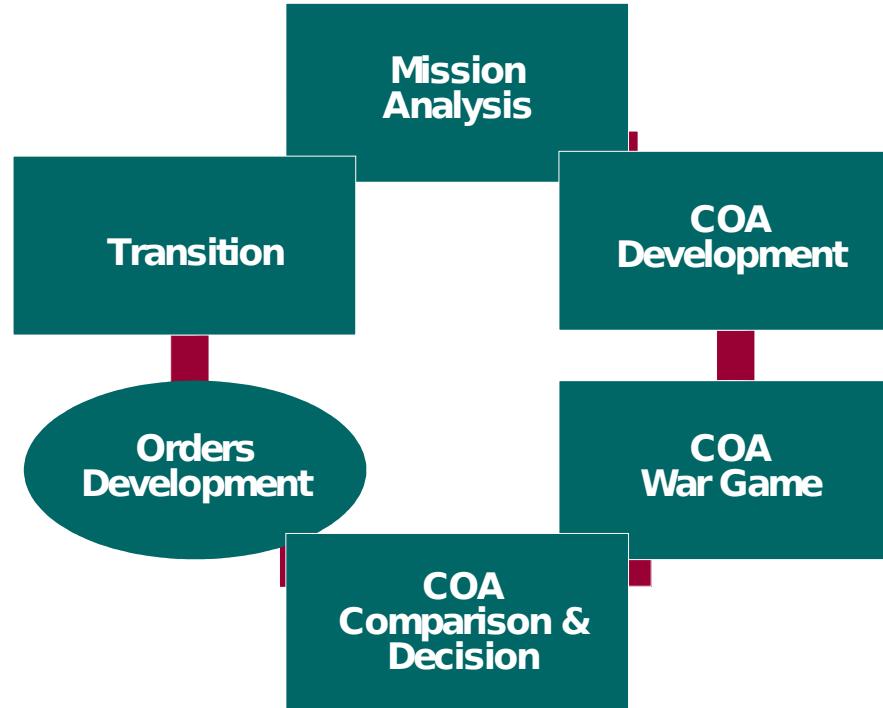
Output:

- CONOPS
- *Warning Order*



ORDERS DEVELOPMENT

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Purpose: "...communicates the commander's intent, guidance and decisions in a clear, useful form that is easily understood by those executing the order."



ORDERS DEVELOPMENT

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Process:

- Prepare OPORD/OPLAN
- Orders reconciliation
- Orders crosswalk
- Commander's approval

Input:

- Mission statement
- Commander's intent
- Task organization
- CONOPS
- Specified & implied tasks

IPB

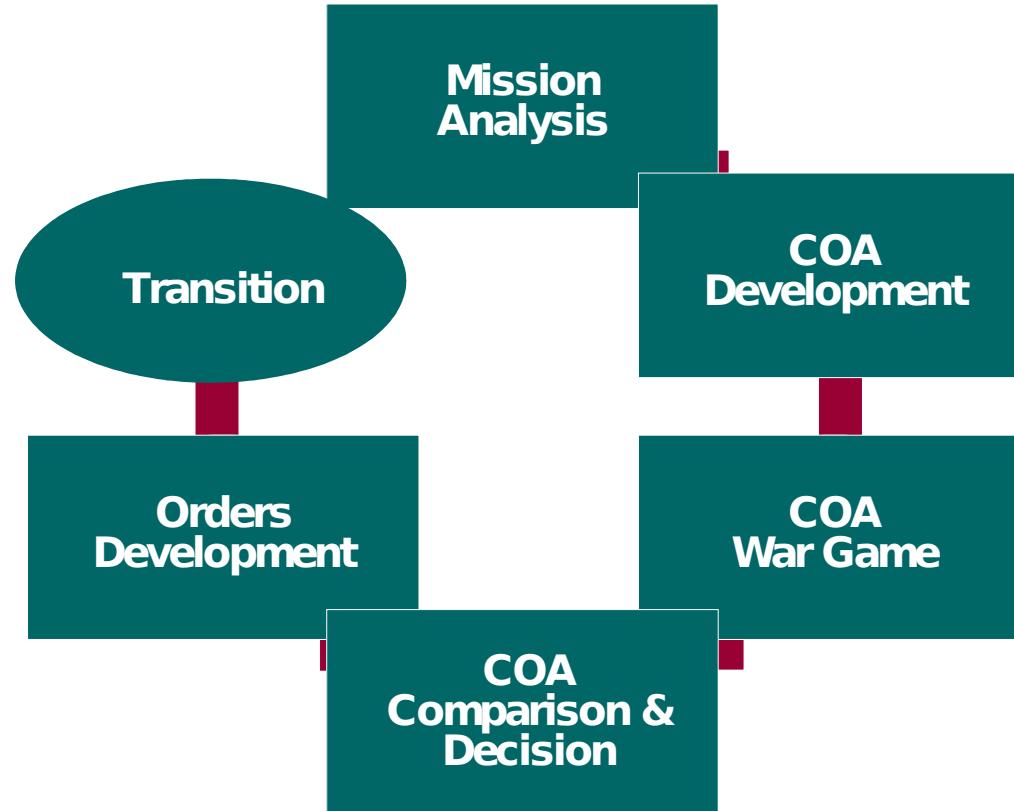
Output:

- **OPORD/OPLAN**
- **OPTASK AMPHIB**



TRANSITION

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Purpose: "...to provide a successful shift from planning to execution."

-- MCWP 5-1



TRANSITION

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Process:

- Transition brief
- Internal/External
- Drills
- Confirmation brief

Input:

- *OPORD/OPLAN*

IPB

Output:

Subordinate commanders and staffs that are prepared to:

- Execute the order & possible branches
- Plan sequels



PROCESS COMPARISON

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MCPP	MDMP	JTF	JOPES Crisis Action Planning
MISSION ANALYSIS	RECEIPT OF MISSION	MISSION ANALYSIS	SITUATION DEVELOPMENT
COA DEVELOPMENT	COA DEVELOPMENT	COA DEVELOPMENT	CRISIS ASSESSMENT
COA WAR GAME	COA ANALYSIS	COA ANALYSIS	COA DEVELOPMENT
COA COMPARISON/ DECISION	COA COMPARISON	COA COMPARISON	COA SELECTION
ORDERS DEVELOPMENT	COA APPROVAL	COA SELECTION	COA SELECTION
TRANSITION	ORDERS PRODUCTION	ORDERS PRODUCTION	EXECUTION PLANNING
			EXECUTION

